

11 February 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel

SUBJECT: Amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act

REFERENCE: Memo of 3 May 1956 from [redacted] to Legislative Counsel, Subject: Proposed Amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act

STATINTL

1. Reference memo contained proposals, with the concurrence of the Director of Security and the Office of the DD/P, for certain changes in the Immigration and Nationality Act. The memo referred largely to a number of bills pending before the last Congress, some of which proposed rather sweeping revisions of the existing legislation. No action was taken on these proposals during the last Session, and they were accordingly wiped off the books.

2. As expected, a number of immigration bills have already been introduced in the 85th Congress, and there undoubtedly will be many more. At this stage, the ones which deserve most careful attention are S. 1006, H. R. 4202 and H. R. 4205, all of which are identical, approved by the Administration, and designed to implement the President's message of 31 January 1957 on immigration matters. A copy of the President's message (H. Doc. 85) and H. R. 4205 is attached.

3. These bills, if enacted, would result in a substantial revision of the McCarran-Walter Act, designed to correct "out-dated" provisions of the existing law, with special reference to the problems posed by large scale emergency situations such as that resulting from the Hungarian crisis.

4. Although the entire substance of the bills should be examined with care, I note that certain provisions are directed at the types of problems which were the subject of reference memo. For example, Section 21(a) of the new bills amends Section 316(b) and (c) of the basic law in a manner substantially consistent with the proposal in paragraph 2 of reference memo. Section 32 of the proposed bills amends Section 223(b) of the basic law so as to cover a part of the problem described in paragraph 3 of reference memo. It extends the validity of permits for a spouse or a child of a member of the

Armed Forces, but it does not extend this provision beyond the Armed Forces. As was the case last year, the new bills propose a fundamental revision of the quota system, and they also contain in Section 14(b) an amendment which would remove the requirement for fingerprinting aliens under certain conditions.

5. It is impossible to predict whether any or all of these proposals will be enacted. As you know, Congressman Walter traditionally reacts unfavorably to proposed amendments to the McCarran-Walter Act, particularly those introduced by the Administration. He has given some evidence of a willingness to make certain revisions, but it is too early to speculate usefully on what may come out of it all. I understand that Senator Eastland is likely to support whatever position Mr. Walter takes.

6. Despite the uncertainties, however, I think we should proceed on the assumption that the Administration will press for its proposals, and I accordingly recommend that the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Security, and the interested Offices in DD/P review the above bills, and that we arrange to have a meeting at our early convenience to discuss an Agency position and possible supplementary proposals. After such a meeting, we will probably want to get in touch with the Department of Justice and the Bureau of the Budget. I will try to keep abreast of congressional consideration of these or other important bills on this subject, and will keep you informed of major developments.

/s/ Norman S. Paul

Norman S. Paul  
Legislative Counsel

STATINTL

Attachments

1. H. Doc. 85
2. H. R. 4205
3. *cf. ref. memos*

cc: Director of Security via   
DD/P (Mr. Hulick)  
OD/S  
AAS

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